

# ***Facts About Living Forever***

*International Bible Lesson*

**John 11:17-27, 32-36**

**Sunday, May 20, 2012**

*“Martha saith unto him, I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day”* (John 11:24—KJV).

*“I know,’ she replied, ‘that he will rise to life on the last day”* (John 11:24—GNB).

*“Martha said to Jesus, ‘I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day”* (John 11:24—NRSV).

Early in Jesus’ ministry, He taught, “the hour is coming, and is now here, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live” (John 5:25). Then Jesus added, “the hour is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice and will come out—those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation” (John 5:28-29).

Later in Jesus’ ministry, after Lazarus had been buried in his tomb four days, Jesus came to the home of Lazarus’ sisters. When Martha spoke to Jesus, she affirmed four facts of faith. First, Jesus could have healed her brother. Second, Jesus could still do something, because God always gives Jesus whatever He asks. Third, her brother will rise again on the last day. Fourth, Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God. Then, Jesus demonstrated the truth of His teachings and affirmed her trust in him. At Lazarus’ tomb, Jesus called Lazarus by name, and Lazarus heard His voice and came forth alive. After Jesus’ enemies reported that Jesus had raised Lazarus, the religious leaders plotted Jesus’ death and “planned to put Lazarus to death as well” (John 12:10). Jesus gave Lazarus life, but eventually Lazarus’ body would die again; yet, on the last day, Jesus will raise from the dead all who believe in Him. Jesus taught, “This is indeed the will of my Father, that all who see the Son and believe in him may have eternal life; and I will raise them up on the last day” (John 6:40). – L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.

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## **Thinking Further**

1. Why might God sometimes choose to delay in giving us what we want?

2. Why do you think people of all economic conditions and stations in life followed Jesus?

3. What truths about Jesus did Martha confess to Jesus? Do you believe these?

4. Why is it important to believe that those who die “will rise again in the resurrection on the last day”?

5. Why do you think Jesus wept? Is weeping a sign of lack of faith?

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